



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Arnold H. Huftalen
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

SEVENTH MAN SENTENCED IN SOFTWARE PIRACY CRACKDOWN

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today that **JOHN BARRY NEAS**, age 50 of Holbrook, MA, was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court to a year in federal prison for his role in a nationwide software piracy conspiracy.

Mr. Neas' prosecution resulted from an FBI undercover operation known as "Digital Piratez" run in New Hampshire by the Boston, Massachusetts FBI Computer Squad. During the course of the operation, undercover agents infiltrated several Internet based computers known as "warez servers" run by groups of software pirates and secret Internet Relay Chat channels used by those involved to communicate in real time about their software piracy activities. Warez servers exist for the exclusive illegal purpose of storing, copying, and reproducing, world wide, copyright protected software. They serve no legitimate purpose. **NEAS** managed a warez server known as **CITY MORGUE** which, although located in North Easton, MA, was used by co-conspirators from New Hampshire and elsewhere.

After the sentencing hearing, U.S. Attorney Colantuono, stated: "There are many individuals who engage in software piracy. New Hampshire is home to many involved in the development and distribution of new software applications. Our federal copyright laws are designed to encourage these entrepreneurs by protecting their rights in the software they create. This ongoing investigation was designed to accomplish two goals; punish those involved in software piracy, but more importantly, to let those who might engage in such conduct know that it is illegal and, if done in New Hampshire, they will be investigated and prosecuted. This Office and the FBI are proud to be on the leading edge of one of the Department of Justice's newest initiatives to combat intellectual property crime."

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Computer Squad in Boston, MA and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Arnold H. Huftalen with assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice, Computer Crimes and Intellectual Property Section in Washington, D.C.